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CENTRE ISSUES NORMS FOR FILM SHOOTING AMID COVID

Govt on Sunday released standard operating procedure to resume production activities put on ice due to Covid-19

SOME EXEMPTIONS FOR ACTORS

The SOP includes steps like social distancing and mandatory use of masks for cast and crew, except for actors in front of camera. Production aspects like scenes, sequences, positions of crew members, meal timings etc must be planned in advance to ensure distancing. Spitting is prohibited and all cast and crew members are required to follow respiratory etiquettes

FILM FRATERNITY WELCOMES THE MOVE

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said thousands of people depend on the movie industry for jobs, and as such, the resumption of production activities is crucial
- Members of film fraternity, including filmmakers Boney Kapoor and Ashoke Pandit, welcomed the government's decision

SOP

WAS PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH UNION HEALTH AND HOME MINISTRIES

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I-T TO CLAMP DOWN ON UNEXPLAINED INCOME, PLANS HIGHER FINES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

IF you have done heavy cash withdrawals, large cash transfers or enjoyed luxury holidays after 2016, be ready with proper documentation because the income tax (I-T) department is likely to seek an explanation.

Sources say the I-T department is gearing up to clamp down on tax evaders and is mulling steep penalties for higher-than-disclosed income and unexplained expenditure as well as cash transactions.

"While we will protect honest tax payers, starting this year the department will closely monitor any incident of tax evasion in I-T return form with strict penalties," said a senior official.

He explained that if someone has withdrawn or deposited heavy cash, spent large amounts on luxury holidays that don't match with one's income, or has spent a lot on credit card, it will be open to close scrutiny. If there is a mismatch between the income disclosed and savings or expenditure, it could result in penalties going as high as 83%.

If the tax department detects undisclosed saving, cash at home, gold jewellery or other valuable article, the value of such items will be deemed as the income of the taxpayer under Sec 69A of Income Tax Act.

EXPRESS READ

New Trump campaign ad features Modi

Washington: US President Donald Trump's campaign team on Saturday released a commercial that included clips from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches. Modi is seen as saying Trump "needs no introduction" and that "his name comes up in almost every conversation" | PTI

BJP, JD(U), LJP allies in Bihar polls: Nadda

New Delhi: All the three NDA constituents in Bihar - the BJP, the JD(U) and the LJP - will together fight the coming assembly elections in the state with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as the face of the alliance, BJP president J P Nadda said on Sunday and expressed confidence that they will emerge victorious. Whenever the three parties have fought together, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has notched up a big victory, the BJP chief said.

TikTok's parent firm to sue Trump admin

New York: Chinese firm ByteDance, which owns TikTok is preparing to file a lawsuit on Monday, challenging US President Donald Trump's executive order giving Americans 45 days to stop doing business with it | P11

UK approached to get Sharif back: Pak

Islamabad/Lahore: The Pakistan government has declared former PM Nawaz Sharif, currently in London, an 'absconder' and approached the UK government for extradition.

WITH THIS ISSUE
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34 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) & 4 of city Express

Sonia offers to step down; CWC meet today

Demand for a party rehaul at this critical juncture would be detrimental to its interests... Sonia Gandhi should continue to helm the Congress as long as she wants

Amarinder Singh, Punjab CM

The entire Congress party in Karnataka stands by the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and the Gandhi family

D K Shivakumar, president, Karnataka Congress

BUZZ ON A K ANTONY

There are chances of A K Antony coming at the helm of the party, according to some leaders in Kerala. State Congress leaders feel if Rahul declines to take up the role, then in all likelihood Antony will emerge as next president

She (Sonia) has always taken challenges head on. But if she has made up her mind, Rahul Gandhi should come ahead and be the party head

Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan CM

Reports of Sonia Gandhi resigning from the post of Congress interim president are false

Randeep Singh Surjewala, Congress spokesperson

23 leaders demand an active, publicly visible chief for party; Rahul still unwilling to take over: Sources

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

SONIA Gandhi offered to step down as interim Congress chief on Sunday, a day before the crucial Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, after 23 leaders shot off a letter seeking a change in leadership. Sonia told General Secretary Organisation K C Venugopal to convey this to the party leaders who wrote the letter, sources said.

As per party rules, the Congress chief has to send resignation to the CWC. Sources said she will do so on Monday at the CWC meeting, even as Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala denied reports of Sonia resigning.

Following the dissent letter by a group of senior party leaders, several party men including Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Bhagel, as well as several state Congress chiefs rallied behind the Gandhis. They called upon Rahul Gandhi to take over if Sonia steps down.

However, sources said Rahul is unwilling to lead the party. They added that at the CWC, Sonia will be requested to continue to lead the party, while a process is rolled out to look for a new chief and restructure the organisation.

Sources revealed the reason the letter was leaked in the run up to the CWC meet was because many senior leaders feel sidelined as Rahul continues to call the shots in all major party decisions, without taking formal party responsibilities and mostly being inaccessible to the party's rank and file for any consultative processes.

Along with sister Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, Rahul is also said to have been rather critical of party leaders for not taking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his policies rather gingerly and not as much as required. "They (the signatories of the dissenting note) want the matter to be discussed in the CWC and a process for time-bound restructuring of the party to be rolled out soon," said a senior leader.

Sonia took over as interim chief on August 10, 2019 after Rahul stepped down, taking responsibility for the party's Lok Sabha debacle.

"She was reluctant and was convinced to lead the party for the time being, on the understanding that the party would start the process of looking for a new chief. But that did not happen," said a senior party leader. The issue of leadership vacuum was raised by several leaders during a parliamentary party meeting with Sonia last month. Leaders who have written to Sonia include, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Kapil Sibal, and Shashi Tharoor. P7,9

DKS terms letter 'indiscipline', bats for Rahul's return

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

RIGHT from Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar and former Chief Minister and Legislature Party Chief Siddaramaiah to other Karnataka Congress leaders have firmly put their weight behind AICC interim president Sonia Gandhi and the Gandhi family to head the party at the national level.

Even as former Karnataka chief minister Veerappa Moily is said to be one of the signatories to a letter seeking changes in the party leadership, Shivakumar on Sunday evening wrote a two-page letter to Sonia Gandhi urging her to continue as AICC president. Terming leaking of the letter seeking a change in leadership to the media as an act of indiscipline, Shivakumar said such acts will set a bad example. He insisted that if Sonia had decided it was time for a change in leadership, then Rahul Gandhi should be persuaded to replace her.

"Anyone can discuss anything within the party forum, but signing such a letter and leaking it to the media is indiscipline," Shivakumar told *The New Indian Express*. CONTINUED ON: P7

Docs, other med staff call off state-wide stir

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

MEMBERS of the Karnataka Government Medical Officer's Association (KGMOA), who were protesting against the suicide of Dr Nagendra – the Taluk Health Officer from Nanjangud – due to work pressure, called off their strike on Sunday.

The KGMOA had threatened not to treat any patients, including the Covid-infected, if the government failed to meet their demands.

However, following an assurance from Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to look into their demands, the medical staffers withdrew their strike. CONTINUED ON: P4

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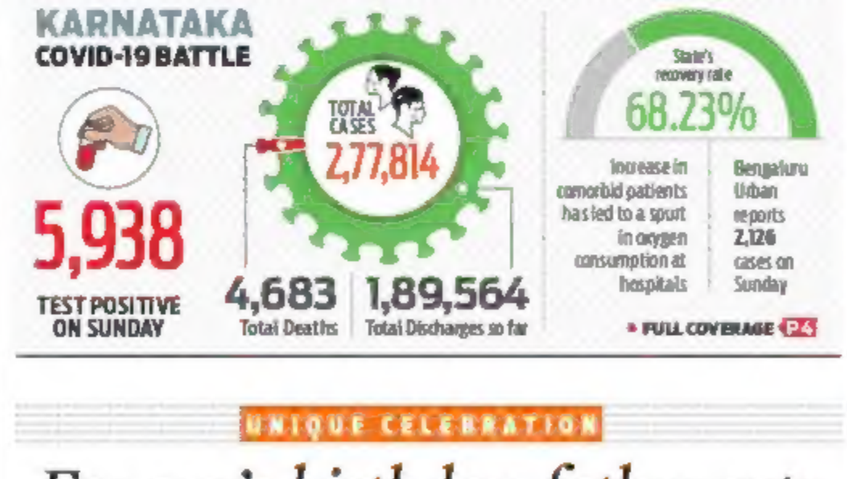
Contempt plea against Swara: Petitioner now approaches S-G

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

AFTER Attorney General KK Venugopal dismissed a plea to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against actor **Swara Bhaskar** for her comments on Supreme Court's verdict in the Ayodhya dispute, the petitioner on Sunday approached the Solicitor General, Tushar Mehta.

In a letter to Mehta, Usha Shetty, the petitioner, says she differs with the reasons given by the Attorney General.

A-G Venugopal in a letter to Shetty noted that Bhaskar's comment appear to be "a factual one and is a perception of the speaker. The comment refers to the judgment of the Supreme Court, and is not an attack on the institution. This does not offer any comment on the Supreme Court itself or say anything that would scandalise or lower the authority of the Supreme Court." In February, Bhaskar reportedly said, "We are living in a country where the SC states that the demolition of Babri Masjid was unlawful and in the same judgment rewards the same people who brought it down."



UNIQUE CELEBRATION

For son's birthday, father gets Bagalkot village school painted

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Bagalkot

The school which received a fresh coat of paint from Mohammad Sabh Agra (below) | EXPRESS

THE Headmaster and staff at the Government High School in Herishivanagutti village had a pleasant surprise when they went back to the school after the weekend recently. The school building which had not seen a coat of paint for decades looked bright and shining.

The credit for this goes to Mohammad Sabh Agra (41), a resident of the village who is a Group-D employee (peon) at the school. He chose a unique way to make his six-year-old son's birthday memorable. He got the school building painted with his own money.

His gesture has won appreciation from all – Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar to Zilla Panchayat CEO T Bhooblan to the people.

Amidst financial difficulties, he has spent around Rs 30,000 to ensure that the school where he works gets a new look. A couple of months ago, he had spent over Rs 3 lakh for the heart surgery of his only son Mohammad Mustaf (6).

"I wanted to celebrate my son's birthday in a unique way. Initially, I had managed to mobilize only Rs 10,000. But as the estimated cost shot up to Rs 30,000, I took a loan and got the school painted," Mohammad Sabh told *TNIE*. P7